loss that the owner might be put to by such default in the payment of the tax. It is not possible, as you know, for the land of a man to be sold in revenue auction behind his back and without his knowledge; because, without notice to the *pattadar* at the several stages, the revenue auction sale cannot take place and, if it does take place at all, without such notice as the Regulation and the Rules prescribe, it is very easy to have that auction sale set aside.

Your last point was that, in the case of revenue auctions of immovable property, the *tom-tom* charges come to one rupee. I think that is a mistake. *Tom-tom* charges are 14 chs. as a rule; but in difficult localities, for instance in the hills, the High Ranges and other places, the charges are 21 chs.

5. Registry of Cardamom lands.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR (*Devicolam taluk*) expressed the sentiments of loyalty and gratitude which the people of his constituency cherished towards Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent for the several beneficial acts done during Her Highness' rule, particularly the opening of the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, which is specially beneficial to the inhabitants of the High Range.

Passing on to his subject, the member said that the order passed in 1096 prohibiting future registry of lands in the Cardamom Hills Reserve adversely affected the Travancorean planter. Before the issue of that order, the British Indian ryots had secured for themselves large extents of cardamom lands in Travancore. By the time the Travancorean planter began to realise the benefits and advantages of cardamom cultivation, the prohibition order was passed. When the same subject was pressed at the previous session of the Assembly by the member for the Devicolam taluk, he was told in reply that there was no prohibition but only a temporary cessation pending completion of the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road. As the road was nearing completion and as there were many Travancoreans willing to take up cardamom lands, the member requested that the prohibition order be cancelled and lands registered in the names of subjects of the State at the minimum rate of *taravila*.

He was given to understand that the Cardamom Rules were undergoing revision. He requested that the revision might be effected as early as possible and suggested the desirability of confining future registry of cardamom lands to *bona fide* subjects of the State.

Lastly, the dual control exercised by the Land Revenue and Forest Departments over the Cardamom Hills Reserve should be abolished and the control should be vested in the one or the other department, preferably the Land Revenue Department.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Marikar, I shall, with great pleasure, convey, to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent, your expressions of loyalty and of respectful recognition of the benefits that have been conferred upon the people of the State during Her Highness' rule.

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With regard to the Cardamom Rules, you may rest assured that Government will always bear in mind the interests of the Travancorean planter. In fact, one of the reasons which induced Government to pass the prohibition order in 1096 was itself their solicitude for the Travancorean planter. After the completion of the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, when that part of the country is opened up, Government will consider the desirability of relaxing the order of 1096.

You referred to the dual control over these lands now exercised by the Land Revenue Department and the Forest Department. In the nature of the tenure that is created in favour of the cardamom planters, it seems to me that it is inevitable that both the Land Revenue Department and the Forest Department should have control over these lands. As a matter of fact, the control of the Forest Department is reduced to a minimum. So far as the trees are concerned, you know they remain the property of the Government and it is the province of the Forest Department to conserve the interests of Government in timber. The control of the Forest Department over cardamom lands is only for the benefit of that conservation of Government rights over timber. As the position is at present, it is not possible for the Government to take away the little control that the Forest Department has over these lands; and for the present, therefore, this dual control, as you call it, has to be maintained.

MEMBER: But cannot the whole control over these lands be vested in one department?

DEWAN: Revenue matters cannot be handed over to the Forest Department and therefore it is that the control of the Forest Department is reduced to the absolute minimum. I do not think this restricted control which the Forest Department has is causing real hardship.

MEMBER: It does. There are difficulties in regard to felling timber.

DEWAN: Your difficulty with regard to the felling of trees does not affect the control vested in the Forest Department, because it is the Land Revenue Department which allows the felling of trees. The Forest Department is only concerned with the transport of timber and it is a right which cannot be taken away from the Forest Department.

6. Grievances of the ryots in respect of the present mode of realisation of land revenue and some suggestions for redressing them.

MR. A. K. GOVINDA DAS (*Nominated*) thanked the Government for nominating men of status of his community to the Assembly and also conveyed the assurance of loyalty of members of his community to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and to His Highness the Maha Raja.

Speaking on his subject, the member first referred to the vagaries practised by the *pakuthi* subordinates in recovering arrears of land revenue. Demand notices were unnecessarily issued but not properly

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